(c) the reaction of Government thereof to honour stay order of Delhi High Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes.Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), the guidelines of the UGC Research Scientist Scheme mention that the award could be either withdrawn or continued at the same level or the Scientist could be even promoted to the next higher level for another contract period of 5 years. The decision of the Commision in this regard shall be final. The Commission has also made it clear that the work of the Research Scientists be reviewed periodically by a Committee of three experts before the expiry of the five year period and unless the work is unsatisfactory, they would be continued until superannuation. The cases as reported in the news-item, except one case, are of such Research Scientists whose work was assessed by the Review Committee and found unsatisfactory. In one case, the Review Committee, after assessing the work, had allowed the award of the Research Scientist.

As per direction of the hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the UGC filed an application to allow it to discontinue the awards of those Research Scientists whose awards were discontinued by the UGC. The question of not honouring the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi by the UGC does not arise.

Nutritional support to Primary Education

2039. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the centrally funded scheme for nutritional support to primary education aims to improve nutritional status of school-going children and enrolment/retention at primary stage;

(b) whether, according to CAG Report, out of the total targeted 11.5 crore children, only about 2.18 crore children were provided cooked/processed food; and

(c) Whether the Food Corporation of India held up supplies of foodgrains to States on account of failure of the Ministry to make payment and if so, the reasons for delayin payment to FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines of the scheme, local bodies are expected to develop institutional arrangements for providing cooked/pre-cooked food within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the programme in the local areas. However, in the interim period, as a prelude to the provision of cooked/pre-cooked food in the schools, food grains at the rate of 3 Kgs. per student per month may be distributed to all children of classes I to V subject to a minimum attendance of 80 per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir. Currently, Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh (Tribal Blocks,) Madhya Pradesh (Tribal Blocks,), Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep are distributing cooked meals. In Delhi, processed food is being distributed. Other States/ UTs are still continuing with distribution of food-grains as they are not able to mobilise resources due to financial constraints. This issue has been taken with the State Governments concerned.

(c) During July to September 1998, the supply of food-grains by FCI had been temporarily suspended in States.UTs due to problems relating to reconciliation of lifting figures and non-release of funds to FCI which was subsequently restored.

Sanskrit Speaking course in Universities

2040. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.G.C. has sanctioned grant-in-aid to universities to start Sanskrit Speaking Course;

(b) if so, the names of Universities which have started the above course;

(c) the names of Universities which have not started the above course and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Universities are to have academic collaboration with Sanskrit Bharati, New Delhi, for identifying teachers and conducting the above course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to set up Simple Sanskrit